

THE VIRGINIA TRAPPER

The Virginia Trapper is the Virginia Trapper's Association's newsletter, delivered to members in the mail three times a year.

Pictured below is Volume 3, Number 2-
the October 2006 issue.

Each issue of The Virginia Trapper features an interview with a veteran trapper, articles on trapping techniques, VTA Officer's reports, VTA District Director's reports, information on upcoming VTA events, trap suppliers' ads, VTA member classifieds and much more.

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October 2006

40th Annual VTA Convention

October 20 - 22, 2006
Bland, VA

Lots of Dealers, Tailgaters
& Demos

Convention Schedule &
Dinner Menus included

More info on pg. 8 & 9

The Fur Market Report

By: John W. Epler Jr.

It looks like a wild ride ahead for this season, where fur prices are concerned! The leaders again this season will be the water animals: mink, muskrats, and beavers. We expect muskrats to start out higher in price than where they finished last season. Wild mink should be as good as last year; also beaver will do as well as last year. As far as long hair goods are concerned, the best item you have in Virginia is the gray fox. We expect this item to fetch the same money as last season and perhaps a slight bit higher on later caught, full prime select goods. The losers this year will be red fox, cooncoons, and river otter. Expect these items to decline in price in comparison to last year at the beginning of the season, however it is a long winter and anything can happen. My advice is to trap everything but concentrate on the water animals the hardest. I think the biggest thing to swallow this season will be the drastic price reduction in the river otter. Common belief that otter will continue to average around \$100.00, even in this bad market situation, will cause some people a headache. Personally, I feel the otter party is over, so get over it and move on.

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The Fur Man sometime during the fur boom years. Lord only knows how much fur this man didn't put up in his lifetime.

As Good As They Come A Tribute To Randy Colvin

By Don Shumaker

I backed the old pickup up close to the front door of Colvin's Fur House near Gordonsville, Virginia just as the sun was setting behind the Blue Ridge Mountains. Piled high in the bed of the truck was an unskinned, 2 day catch of fur - somewhere around 18 or 20 beavers, several otters, and a decent haul of coons and muskrats. As I dropped the tailgate, a burly, dark bearded man who was built like an oak tree trunk (and just as solid) stepped out of the front door. "Good day Shumaker!", laughed Randy Colvin as he slapped me on the back (nearly knocking me down). "Fur must be gettin' thin down your way or maybe you need to take some trappin' instructions. Two days ago you brought me a decent load of fur. My wife Pam will have that little mess of fur skinned fast as we unload it!"

Most every trapper over 30 has either known, dealt with, or heard of Randy Colvin. He was a man's man, a trapper's trapper, and as good as they come as a kind, helpful human being. I have worked and trapped in my lifetime with some hard knocking, high rolling trappers, but none that I know of had the raw strength, enthusiasm, and staying power of my friend Randy. Randolph Edward Colvin, AKA "The Fur Man" was born on November 15, 1945, the son of Edward and Nellie Colvin. Randy's father owned and operated a large poultry farm on U.S. highway 15 between Gordonsville and Orange, Virginia. Randy opened up Colvin's Fur House and a greenhouse operation across route 15 from the poultry farm. He worked many long, hard hours at all of the operations, along with running a long trapline of his own in the winter, and he did animal damage control work during the off season. The Fur Man began his trapping career in 1954. Trapping, hunting, fishing, and farming came natural, as he was a descendant of a long line of outdoorsmen and trappers. At an early age he would go stay with folks who were having trouble with varmints and go home only after the problem was taken care of. As he grew older, he covered miles of countryside trapping all species of furbearers. He was an expert land and water trapper.

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